

# *News Release*

For Immediate Release  
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## **Local man pleads guilty to Felony DUI**

**Charleston, S.C.** – September 18, 2009. James Eric Freeman (DOB 7/21/1969) pled guilty to Felony DUI with Great Bodily Injury on September 14, 2009 in front of Circuit Court Judge Roger M. Young, Sr. Freeman pled guilty before opening statements and was sentenced to the South Carolina Department of Corrections (“SCDC”) for 10 Years. In South Carolina, Felony DUI with Great Bodily Injury carries a potential sentence ranging from a minimum of 30 days to 15 years.

On April 9, 2007, Freeman was driving under the influence of alcohol during an automobile collision which occurred on Rifle Range Road. Freeman’s blood alcohol level (“BAC”) was .18. The collision resulted in a broken shoulder for a passenger of the van that Freeman struck. Another vehicle on the road at the time had to swerve to avoid the collision; a nine year old girl was a passenger in that car. Freeman was driving without his headlights on.

Managing Assistant Solicitor Jennifer Kneece Shealy prosecuted the case and was pleased with the sentence. “The fact that Mr. Freeman had been previously convicted of Driving Under the Influence twice and also Possession with the Intent to Distribute Cocaine and Marijuana warranted the sentence in this case,” said Shealy.

Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson indicated that “Mr. Freeman’s case reflects the consequences of driving under the influence and the devastating effect it can have on our community.”

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